

25 November 1955

THRU : Chief, St/I/R
Chief, D/S
Chief, S/COM

RD-C-1146 Requirement

REF : Memo from St/I to Chief, S/COM, subj: Potential for Intelligence Collection Pertaining to Southeast Sinkiang Province, dated 14 Nov 55, SECRET.

Background

Developments in wireline communications have been progressing rapidly in the Kashgar (Su-fu) area. Kashgar is the terminus for three major trails. The northern is known to have wirelines running toward Alma-Ata. The western trail has a wireline at least part of the way to Osh, USSR. The southern trail is believed to have a wireline to Gilgit in Jammu-Kashmir. Kashgar is connected by wireline to Urumchi. Certain information indicates that either a road is planned or being built between Rudog, Tibet, and Khotan (Hotien), Sinkiang. It is not known, however, if wirelines are available along this road, or from Kashgar along the northern border of Tibet to Charknlik and from there southeast to Lanchow or from Guma (Pishan), southeast of Kashgar to Leh, Jammu-Kashmir. (SECRET)

Requirement

1. What are the wireline routes in this area from Kashgar?
2. When were these wirelines built? Have they been improved?
3. How many wires are there on the poles?
4. Who can use the wirelines?
5. What are the rates for sending messages or making telephone calls?

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S/COM: [REDACTED]:djr (23 November 1955)

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